## **REMARKS**

Claims 16 and 18-32 and 38-41 are active in this application. The claims have been amended for clarity. The phrase "competes with IL-2 for IL-2R  $\beta$ -chain binding" is found in the specification, e.g., on page 39. No new matter is added

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Mertz for the helpful comments provided to the Applicants' undersigned representative over the telephone. Based on this discussion, it is believed that the present claims are in a condition for allowance.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is requested.

Applicants also request that this case be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon Attorney of Record Registration No. 24,618

Daniel J. Pereira, Ph.D. Registration No. 45,518

Customer Number 22850